

mentioned mysterious 'facts' to the Plenary Council in Baltimore.

This whole story may be briefly dismissed. (a) On the face of it, it has no bearing whatever upon the merits of the Hibernian-Australasian Catholic Benefit Society or upon its relations with the Catholic Church and the ecclesiastical authorities. (b) On the face of it, it does not bear out the statement or suggestion that the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the United States stands condemned by the Catholic Church or by 'the clergy.' Only one priest is mentioned as objecting to the Order—and that not on account of any existing fault or error, but on the strength of alleged (and unproven) statements said to have been made by convicted murderers regarding events that took place more than thirty years ago. Against this solitary voice (assuming that the voice spoke as stated) we have the fact that the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America is intimately associated with the religious life of a Church which, there as elsewhere, is exceedingly careful both as to the aims and methods of its societies; that the bishops and clergy of the United States are closely connected with its organisation and management; that it is engaged in all manner of good works; and that its National Chaplain (elected at the Indianapolis convention in July) is none other than Archbishop O'Connell, of Boston, one of the ablest, most brilliant, and most devoted prelates under the Stars and Stripes. We may here add that, between July, 1906, and July, 1908, the organisation in the United States (including the Ladies' Auxiliary) added not fewer than 75,000 to its already vast roll of members. (c) The whole story, as told by the *Sentinel*, is pitched on the hysterical and exaggerated tone that is commonly associated with lack of accuracy and of balance. (d) Not so much as a solitary charge against the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the United States is even formulated or defined—there is nothing but a vague and shadowy Something, apparently of the fee-faw-fum order, on the alleged authority of a murderer's tongue; and it relates not to the present time, but to incidents of the last generation. (e) Not so much as a scrap or rag of evidence is tendered to show that there is, in all this shadowy and nebulous Something, any fact implicating in crime or dishonor even an individual member of the organisation either past or present; much less the Order as a whole. Till such evidence is forthcoming, natural right compels us to assume the innocence of the association as such and of its members both past and present. It is only with the Irish packed jury and in Looking-glass Land that the verdict precedes the evidence and trial nowadays. (f) Again: there is no evidence before us that the story put into the mouth of the Philadelphia priest was ever really told by him. (g) Here, too, we come to a subtle form of suppression of fact which has some bearing on the whole question. We were for a long period a reader, and for some time a subscriber, to the *Toronto Sentinel*—at a time when we were collecting materials for a book on an Irish secret society. Why were not our Southland Catholic friends informed that the *Toronto Sentinel* is a strong Orange paper, and the recognised organ of the lodges in Canada? That one item of information would have put a different complexion upon the whole story. The a-priori doubt and suspicion which attaches to the whole tale is greatly intensified by the particular source through which it reaches us. We may add that we have placed ourselves in communication with Archbishop Ryan and others in Philadelphia on this subject.

Facts in connection with either Catholic associations or associations of Catholics (they are not necessarily the same thing) are, of course, fair matter for news or comment in the newspaper press, whether of blue or 'yellow' hue. But we fail to see on what grounds an organ of the Orange lodges could consistently find matter for objection in the association of a society of Catholics, or even of a Catholic society, with a secret organisation conducted on the lines of the disreputable 'Molly Maguires.' For there was no crime perpetrated by that detestable association which was not perpetrated on a vastly greater scale by the Orange society, while the long catalogue of the latter's enormities embraces systematic rapine, massacre, repeated terrorism and violence, year by year, by great bodies of armed and drunken or semi-drunken brethren down to the present day, and other offences of which the 'Molly Maguires,' bad as they were, must be held guiltless. The terrible record of the Ulster organisation is told in the reports of numerous Parliamentary Committees and Royal Commissions, in the Acts of Parliament which suppressed the society, and in the Cumberland Plot investigation which closed its career in dishonor in 1836. By comparison with its high crimes, the 'Molly Maguires' were mere misdemeanants. Yet

the 'yellow' organisation never lacks reverend clergy to be its chaplains and grand chaplains, nor churches in which to hold its annual celebrations and thank the Lord that they are not like the rest of men—especially those chuckleheaded Papists. If the *Toronto Sentinel* were to devote its energies to reform the ways of the brethren, it would be too tired when night came to scold Catholics, or even to weep over the crimes of the happily defunct 'Molly Maguires.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Arrangements have been made for a presentation to his Lordship the Bishop on his return from Europe towards the end of January. The matter has been taken up in every part of the diocese.

Captain D. S. Columb and Lieutenants J. B. Callan, jun., and J. S. Columb, of the Hibernian Cadet Corps, have just received their respective certificates. We understand that there are still a few vacancies in the corps, which the officers are anxious to see filled.

The members of the Lawrence Catholic Girls' Calisthenic Club and other lady friends made a presentation of a gold sovereign case and a shaving outfit to Mr. James Airey prior to his departure from Lawrence. The presentation was made by Miss Alice Kelleher, who expressed the regret of the members of the club at the departure of their instructor, and gratitude for his self-sacrificing work in the past. Mr. Airey, in reply, thanked the donors for their gift and for the good wishes which accompanied it.

The St. Joseph's Ladies' Club concluded their 1908 session on Wednesday night of last week with an invitation social evening in St. Joseph's Hall, consisting of progressive euchre and musical items. The winning prizes for the euchre, for which over thirty tables were in play, were won by Miss Clancy and Mr. Young. Acceptable musical items were given by Misses Lean and L. Bryant, Messrs. Carolin and Lean, and Master McFarlane. During the evening the Rev. Father Coffey, on behalf of the members, presented Miss Staunton, president of the club, with an autograph album and a silver fruit knife as small tokens of the interest taken by her in the advancement of the club and in the social improvement of its members. The recipient suitably responded. Refreshments were handed round by the Ladies' Committee, and added greatly to the success of the evening's enjoyment.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

October 31.

On Tuesday, at St. Joseph's Church; Miss K. O'Sullivan, of this city, was married to Mr. Buckeridge, of the Wairarapa. Rev. Father Herring, S.M., performed the ceremony.

On Wednesday Miss L. Collins was married to Mr. John Quinlan at St. Joseph's Church. The ceremony was performed by Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Provincial.

On Sunday week the Redemptorist Fathers will preach a renewal mission of a week's duration in the parish of Wellington South. There will be First Communion and Confirmation on the last Sunday of the mission.

The mission at present being conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers at the Sacred Heart Basilica, Thorndon, has been splendidly attended. The morning service at 6 o'clock sees the church filled in every part. The parish clergy and the missionaries are greatly pleased with the results.

At the conclusion of the mission at the Sacred Heart Basilica the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., will conduct a week's mission—the first of its kind—at Wadestown. Owing to the absence of a suitable building, a large marquee to be placed on the grounds of Mr. Blake has been procured for the purpose.

The sum of about £230 was realised by the Rev. Father Holley, S.M., as the result of his canvass of Thorndon in aid of the Cathedral fund. The efforts of Dean Smyth in Te Aro will, it is anticipated, result in a similar amount. In view of the present scarcity of money, these results are very satisfactory.

The new Catholic Club of St. Anne's at South Wellington hopes to have its large billiard-table installed during the coming week. The vacancy caused by the resignation of the club's

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and opposite { Headstones, Cross Monuments etc., in Granite, Marble,
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